

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO SECDEF WASHDC 0407
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T STATE 134091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EG, US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN INCREASED IMET/TRAINING
LEVELS

REF: CAIRO 12914

1. WE RECOGNIZE VALIDITY OF POINTS MADE IN REFTEL RE
FUTURE INFLUENCE ON EGYPTIAN MILITARY THROUGH MEDIUM OF U.S.
TRAINING. LIKEWISE, WE ARE GRATIFIED TO KNOW THAT PRESENT,
MODEST IMET PROGRAM HAS BEEN SO WELL RECEIVED.

2. CONCERNING FY 79 PROGRAM, EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE (BUT
NOT DISCUSS WITH EGYPTIANS) THAT HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUB-
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS RECENTLY VOTED A 20 PERCENT
CUT IN TOTAL LEVEL FOR NON-ISRAELI MILITARY SECURITY

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ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING IMET PROGRAMS. WE WILL WORK FOR
RESTORATION AS THE BILL PROGRESSES. FURTHER, SINCE CUTS
ARE NOT PROGRAM-SPECIFIC AT THIS TIME, WE CANNOT PREDICT
HOW ANY EVENTUAL CUT WOULD BE APPORTIONED. WITH FOREGOING
IN MIND, EMBASSY, IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH EGYPTIANS,
SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT APPROPRIATION FOR FY 79
PROGRAM STILL TO BE DETERMINED. BY EXTENSION, IT IS PRE-

MATURE TO MAKE FIRM COMMITMENTS/PLANS BASED ON \$400,000,
ALTHOUGH THIS REMAINS OUR GOAL.

3. AN ALTERNATIVE WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED WITH EGYPTIANS
WOULD BE TO PURCHASE APPROPRIATE U.S. TRAINING ON FMS CASH
BASIS. THIS PROCEDURE, WHILE COST WOULD BE FACTOR FOR
EGYPTIAN CONSIDERATION, WOULD RESPOND TO PERCEIVED NEED
FOR A MAJOR INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF EGYPTIANS TO RECEIVE
TRAINING.

4. BY SAME TOKEN, TRAINING ASSOCIATED WITH SALES OF
MILITARY EQUIPMENT (E.G. C-130S AND F-5S) IS COVERED
UNDER RELEVANT LOAS. HENCE, OVERALL U.S. IMPACT THROUGH
TRAINING IS BROADER THAN IMET PROGRAM ALONE.

5. GIVEN PLANNING CYCLES, IT IS PREMATURE TO CONSIDER
FY '80 IMET LEVELS. WE WILL MAKE NOTE OF POINTS MADE IN
REFTEL FOR CONSIDERATION AT APPROPRIATE TIME. IN MEANTIME,
EMBASSY CAIRO WILL BE GIVEN FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE
AN INPUT INTO SHAPING REQUESTS FOR FY'80 MILITARY SECURITY
ASSISTANCE REQUESTS.

6. DEPARTMENT AND DOD ENDORSE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS QUIETLY
TO DISCOURAGE GOE FROM CONTEMPLATING COMBAT ARMS TRAINING
UNDER ANY PROGRAMS OTHER THAN THOSE ESSENTIAL TO ABSORP-
TION OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASED FROM U.S. (E.G. F-5 PILOT
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TRAINING.)

7. ABOVE WILL SERVE AS BASIS FOR OUR DISCUSSIONS ON
SUBJECT OF TRAINING WITH GAMASY WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON.
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NNN

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